

Detroit / River Rouge Oil Spill Unified Command News Release

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Contact
Phone
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Joint Information Center
(313) 568-9486
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Largest Spill on Great Lakes in 10 years

Cost exceeds \$500,000

DETROIT—The oil spill that was discovered earlier this week on River Rouge and the Detroit River is the largest spill incident affecting the Great Lakes in 10 years. More than 10,000 gallons of industrial oil was spilled, according to Cmdr. Patrick Gerrity, Captain of the Port of Detroit and Incident Commander for this spill response.

“Even though this is large spill, we expect to have the majority it removed from the River Rouge by the end of the week,” Gerrity said. “Fortunately, preliminary testing indicates that the oil does not contain PCB or other hazardous chemicals, but we are continuing our sampling.”

Clean-up crews are finding a lot of oily debris along the south shore of River Rouge. Investigators are continuing to follow-up on leads to determine who is responsible for the spill.

The last spill of such magnitude was the 1991 incident that was caused an explosion on by the tanker Jupiter.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Officials from the Joint Information Center—state and federal disaster responders—will hold a news conference to answer questions about the Detroit River/River Rouge oil spill at 10 a.m. Monday, 15 April. The news conference will be at the Response Command Post, Coast Guard Base Detroit, 110 Mount Elliott Avenue, Detroit.